

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 027678
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/RA:FCBENNET,JR
APPROVED BY D - THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
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HA:PDERIAN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 027678

EXDIS - FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, EAID, RP

SUBJECT: IFI LOANS TO THE PHILIPPINES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: 77 STATE 30940 (EXDIS), 77 STATE 20149

1. ON JANUARY 31 OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VOTED FAVORABLY ON THE PROPOSED IBRD LOAN TO THE PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (PDBP). AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION, I RECOMMENDED THIS VOTE BECAUSE OF THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS ASPECTS OF THE LOAN AND BECAUSE WE FEEL THAT THE SCHEDULING OF ELECTIONS IN APRIL FOR AN INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MAY BE SOME EVIDENCE OF MOVEMENT TOWARD AMELIORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

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2. HOWEVER, I NEED NOT TELL YOU THAT LOOKED AT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS, THE PHILIPPINE SITUATION IS STILL FRAUGHT WITH PROBLEMS. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE ELECTIONS DO NOT OFFER GENUINE CHOICES TO THE FILIPINO ELECTORATE AND/OR REPORTS OF DISAPPEARANCES AND MISTREATMENT CONTINUE TO BE RECEIVED, IT WILL BE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR US TO VOTE IN

FAVOR OF IFI LOANS FOR THE PHILIPPINES. I REALIZE THAT
USG ABSTENTIONS OR NEGATIVE VOTES ON IFI LOANS BECAUSE
OF THE REQUIREMENT PLACED ON US BY CONGRESS MAY BE
BRUSHED AWAY BY THE FILIPINOS AS "DOLLAR DIPLOMACY",
BUT THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT THE INTIMACY AND IMPORTANCE
OF THE US-PHILIPPINE INTER-RELATIONSHIP PLACES EXTRA
BURDENS ON BOTH GOVERNMENTS WITH REGARD TO EACH OTHER'S
EXPECTATIONS. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON US, THEREFORE, TO
KEEP REMINDING THEM OF THIS FACT, PALATABLE OR NOT,
IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO OUR OVERALL
RELATIONSHIP.

3. YOUR MEETINGS AND OTHER DEALINGS WITH PRESIDENT
MARCOS ARE OF GREAT VALUE TO US IN CONVEYING THE
POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES THE ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN
RIGHTS POLICY COULD CAUSE IF IT IS NOT FULLY APPRECIATED
BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. IF APPROPRIATE, PERHAPS
YOU CAN USE THE OCCASION OF YOUR NEXT MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT MARCOS TO CONVEY CONSIDERATIONS I HAVE
OUTLINED ABOVE. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO HAVE THE
LIST OF POLITICAL DETAINEES AND THE CHARGES AGAINST
THEM THAT HE AGREED TO GIVE YOU WHEN YOU MET WITH
HIM IN MID-DECEMBER (77 MANILA 20149).

WITH WARMEST REGARDS. VANCE

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